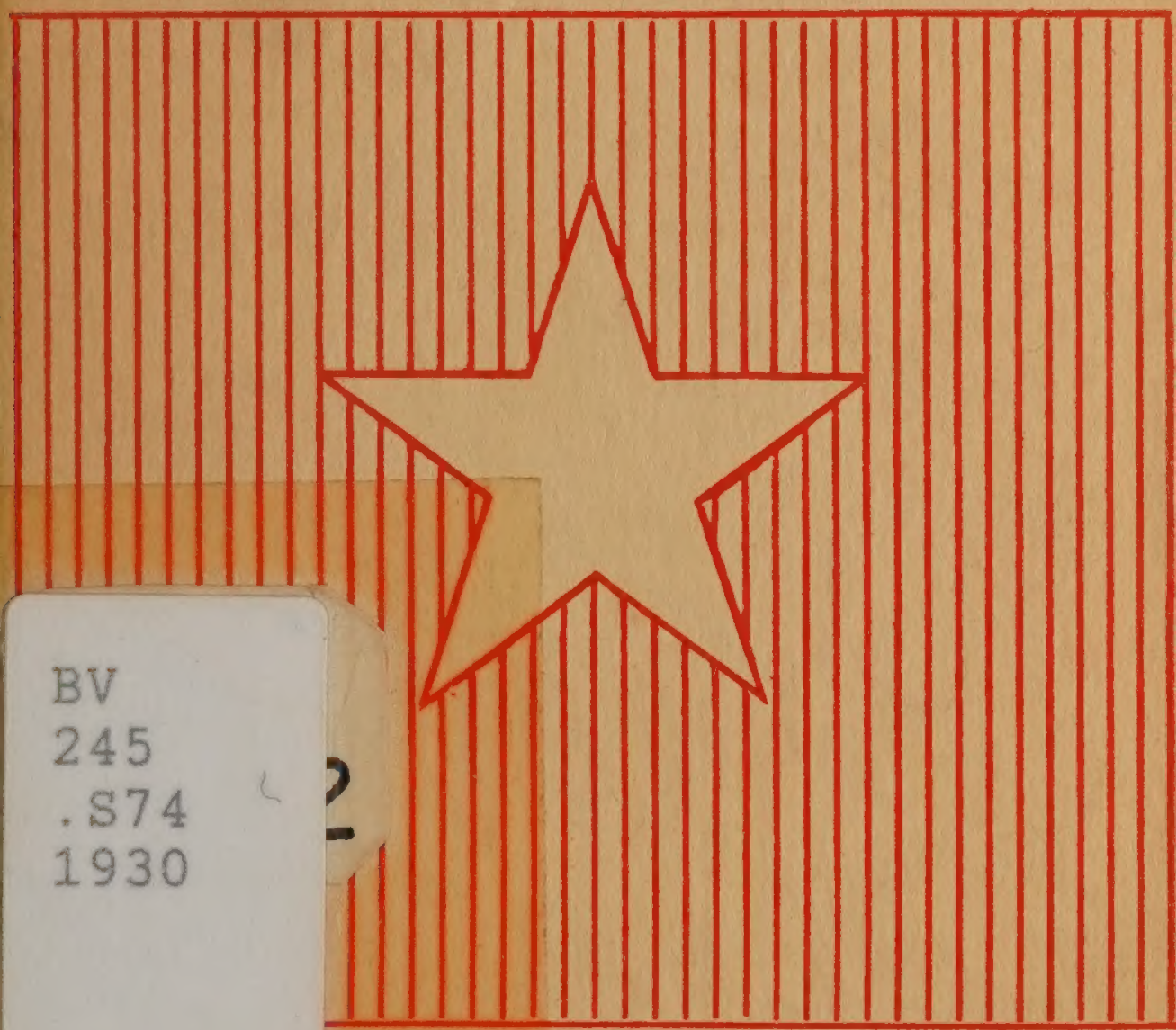
PRAYERS

OF HOPE AND GLADNESS



BV
245
.S74
1930

LIBRARY OF PRINCETON

JAN 2 6 2010

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

f The Theological Seminary

INCETON · NEW JERSEY

OM THE LIBRARY OF THE

EREND JESSE HALSEY, D.D.

F-43
St 492

BV245 .S74 1930
Stewart, Elinor Cochran,
1871-1933.
Prayers : of hope and
gladness.

PRAYERS

OF HOPE AND GLADNESS

By Elinor Cochrane Stewart

LIBRARY OF PRINCETON
FEB 6 1932
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
LIBRARY OF PRINCETON
JAN 2 6 2010
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Pevensey Press

NEW YORK

Copyright, 1925, Edwin S. Gorham, New York.
Reprinted August, 1926.

New and enlarged edition.
Copyright, 1930, Elinor Cochrane Stewart.

To
MARGUERITE

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Adoration *(May, 1923)*	3
For Sleep *(September, 1924)*	4
In Time of Temptation *(October, 1923)*	5
For Rest *(August, 1924)*	6
Universal Prayer *(March, 1924)*	7
For Spiritual Understanding *(February, 1924)*	9
For Work in Thy Kingdom *(July, 1923)*	10
Consecrated Service *(September, 1923)*	11
Shadows *(November, 1924)*	12
In Time of Weakness and Loneliness *(September, 1924)*	13
Keep Me from Vain Imaginings *(August, 1924)*	14
What Is Our Work? *(April, 1924)*	15
For a Church *(July, 1923)*	16
Drifting Souls *(October, 1924)*	17
Angels *(September, 1924)*	18

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Guide My Unsettled Will *(October, 1923)*	19
In Time of Preparation *(May, 1924)*	20
Open Our Hearts *(August, 1924)*	21
Twilight of Understanding *(August, 1923)*	22
Open Our Eyes *(July, 1924)*	23
Divine Love *(May, 1923)*	24
For the Discouraged Ones *(June, 1923)*	25
Deliver Me *(June, 1923)*	26
For Patience *(September, 1924)*	27
Work *(September, 1923)*	28
A Birthday Prayer *(October, 1924)*	29
For Self-Control *(May, 1923)*	30
Against the Dangers of Power *(August, 1923)*	31
For the Comfort of An Understanding Mind *(September, 1923)*	32
May Thy Light Lead Me *(August 4, 1924)*	33

PAGE

GIVE US COURAGE *(November 11, 1923)* 34

SIMPLICITY *(May 18, 1925)* 35

FOR THOSE IN FAR PLACES *(January 20, 1925)* 36

DIVINE LOVE *(May, 1923)* 37

ASPIRATION *(December 20, 1926)* . . 38

FOR A HUMBLE HEART *(October 5, 1926)* 39

AFTER THE STORM *(July 27, 1923)* . . 40

CHILDHOOD *(June 10, 1920)* 41

FOR THE DESOLATE ONES *(August 13, 1923)* 42

MAY OUR HEARTS BECOME AS A GARDEN *(March 9, 1924)* 43

LIGHTEN THE DRAB DAY *(February 19, 1926)* 44

PRAYERS

OF HOPE AND GLADNESS

H FATHER, all merciful, all powerful, guide our paths into quiet places where the noise and the hurry of the world are hushed and where our souls may be given up to adoration and contemplation of Thy wonderful deeds and undying love.

Make our ears quick to hear Thy call, our feet strong to climb the dazzling heights where Thy Presence dwells.

Bless those who through care and tribulation are weary in Life's journey and lead their steps toward help and safety.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

OOTHE my thoughts, my Father. Take my hand in Thine and let Thy spirit of Peace descend upon me, blotting out all disturbing thoughts and emotions, that Thy refreshing sleep may envelope me.

AMEN.

PROTECT, Dear Father, this Thy child in the hours of temptation and temper my spirit with grace, making me willing to abandon those joys which are harmful to the soul, and may I count all loss for Thy sake but gain and blessing to myself and others.

May Thy light and love fall upon me, and Thy help protect me in every step and hour of my life.

For Christ's sake.

AMEN.

INDLE such love in our hearts that we shall trust in Thy power and might to accomplish Thy will among men. May Thy hand guide us and Thy spirit overshadow us, and quietly may we rest in Thy love.

AMEN.

ATHER and Creator of all worlds, illumine our finite minds with Thy spirit of Truth and Light, that the darkness and the mist may clear and we may shine as radiant witnesses to Thee in the midst of the confusion of the world of this day.

May Thy lovingkindness govern every action, that the neighbor or brother of whatever color, creed, or degree, may be served by us in gladness and willingness of heart.

May Thy blessing descend again upon the world, making the crooked paths straight for slipping and hestitating feet, and may those who are afraid of the darkness which comes from the separation from Thee be so strengthened by Thy divine courage that they may surmount difficulties of intellect and become Thy humble followers.

May the little children of this world turn to Thee in their youth, and may the young

men and maidens seek Thee as their Saviour and Guide, that the world may be renewed and rekindled with the power of the Spirit of God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

AMEN.

FATHER of those who are eager for spiritual understanding, that they may use it to Thy glory and the advancement of Thy Kingdom on Earth; be near to these Thy servants, and give them the blessing of faith and eager expectation, and carry them safely through the worldly duties which call so strongly to their souls. May Thy guiding hand direct all their days and hours and minutes, turning into golden glory the declining years of their lives, that they may be witnesses to Thy great honor and servants to Thee, the Great God.

AMEN.

ATHER, make me worthy of the honor of working in Thy vineyard. Make me strong to endure, patient under criticism, gentle, loving, understanding, ready to be used for the advancement of Thy Kingdom on Earth. When duty calls, make me ready to venture and strong to stand steadfast, with singleness of heart and utter devotion to Thee and Thy dear Son.

Bless me and keep me always in Thy care and love.

I ask it in Jesus' name.

AMEN.

ATHER, the loving Father whose days from the beginning of time have been spent in marvelous ways, both directing and protecting the souls of men in this and other worlds; keep, we pray Thee, those whose lives are spent in service to others, whether paid for or given for an ideal. Help these servants of Thine to realize the joy of service, and may they know that honest toil done with singleness of heart is service also to Thee. May the Light fall upon their paths, showing them very clearly their course, and may their hope and expectation run high, and may their feet slip not or hestitate on the journey to the Land of Happiness and Love. May Thy voice call and may they hear and not be afraid, though dark the way and difficult the path.

Bless them and keep them always.

In Jesus' name.

AMEN.

PROTECT me, dear Father, from any shadows which flit across my skies which have the power of obscuring the Light which comes from Thee.

Small as a man's hand, silently, quietly, and with Satanic power, come the things which conceal the Ever Present Spirit as it broodeth over me with watchful care. May my faith be so strong, my purpose so unwavering, that with unhestitating step I may advance over roads rough or smooth alike, with only Thy Spirit to guide, to support and to sustain me. May my hope be stayed on Thee with a bright and holy trust in Thy tender mercies to me, Thy child of Earth.

AMEN.

O STRENGTHEN us Thy servants that we will be strong against temptation, and make us willing to follow Thy voice. Sanctify our lives with Thy Love and Grace, and forgive our shortcomings. Send Thy Comforter to brighten the dark hours and teach us to follow all Holy Inspiration with the certainty that Thy voice is in the midst of the storm speaking with clearness and strength. As Thy followers, may we radiate Thy Divine Love and so bless all those who pass us on Life's Highway.

AMEN.

KEEP me, Father, from the imaginings of my own heart and make me Thy obedient servant and messenger.

Clothe my feet with invisible power, that I may compass the heights and bring healing and hope to Thy tired children whom I meet upon the way. Thy love to heal and guide, Thy forgiveness to bring happiness and peace, and Thy glory to reign supreme and eternal.

AMEN.

GOD, the Father of all Thy Children of Earth, give us an intuition so clear and accurate that the clouds of hesitation may part and that we may see our work as Thou hast planned.

May our doubting souls receive courage and discernment, and may Thy spirit descend upon us, giving us grace to overcome what is hindering our development, that we may triumph and stand victorious upon the threshold of Thy Promised Land of Love, Harmony and Truth.

Send Thy blessing in full measure, and keep us in Thy care and love.

Lovingly we ask it.

AMEN.

EAR Heavenly Father, Master of all Hearts and Director of those who need comfort and strength for their life here on Earth; may those who are wavering with uncertainty and dread at the crossways of life wander into this quiet church and there find peace and joy and strength for their daily tasks.

May the presence of Thy Son be ever near to heal and comfort and sustain the weary travellers, and may their souls be refreshed and renewed with hope and strength, and may the Light shine brightly on their paths, showing them the way.

We ask this great favor for all mankind, who are Thy children.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

AMEN.

HELP, dear Father, those drifting souls who come to Thee in their hour of need. Open their hearts to those inner voices of warning and caution which speak to them above the din of many other voices. May their strength come as they realize that only Thy hand gently leading them into safe and pleasant pastures can save them from the unhappiness of regret and remorse, and may Thy loving touch release them from the lure of following their own desires. May halting steps be quickened into hasty retreat, and may they be received again into Thy fold.

AMEN.

AY Thy ministering angels shelter and protect us from danger, within and without, that we may finish our course in safety and in peace.

AMEN.

DIRECT me, Father, along the path which leads to Thy Paradise, though the way be for the time obscure. May I be, in Thy good time, enlightened as to my duty and my share in Thy great plan. As I can do nothing without Thee, may Thy love abide with me always, taking the reins and guiding my unsettled will to follow in Thy way. Help me, keep me from all harm both to body and soul, taking from me all restless desire so that I may finish my course in peace and calm and to Thy Honor and Glory.

I ask it in Jesus' name.

AMEN.

MAY those who linger for a little while upon the Earth be blessed and strengthened and given understanding to straighten crooked ways. May the way be gently pointed out to them and may the Holy Spirit enter in all His Glory and Power, doing for these souls what no power of man could possibly do.

Father of all who need protection and care; send Thy messengers to help this hestitating soul to find her way to peace and Life Everlasting. May Thy Holy Spirit descend upon her, blessing her and cleansing her heart from all uncertainty and doubt, making it sweet and pure and a fit meeting place for Thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

AMEN.

ATHER of all ignorant peoples of Earth, so open our hearts to Thee that we shall never sleep nor slumber until we have felt the influence of Thy Love and Thy presence in our lives. Come with mighty power and give us understanding, that we may use this precious gift of Grace to Thy glory and to the advancement of Thy Kingdom on Earth. May breaking hearts be eased by the message of Thy Love and Forgiveness, that the Holy Light may fall upon Thy children, blessing and healing and gathering them into Thy fold.

Bless us with humility and with the desire to please Thee, and may our lives be spent in Thy vineyard among Thy children, to whom we may minister in Thy name.

For Jesus Christ's sake.

AMEN.

FATHER, loving Father of those sitting in the twilight of truth and understanding; send, we pray Thee, the blessed Light of Truth and Faith to those children of Thine as they grope and wander and hestitate. May Thy messenger meet them and deliver to them Thy message of Love and Cheer. Help these children of Thine with insight and courage, that doubts may vanish and they may become Thy ministering angels of kindness and hope. Bless them in all their work and in all their play, and keep them tenderly in Thy protection and Love.

For Jesus' sake.

AMEN.

PEN our eyes to the wonders of the works of Thy hands, and may Thy Light be shed upon our path.

May our courage come with each new difficulty, that the way may seem less hard and the path less steep, for with Thy messenger ever near at hand to guard us as we walk, the morning and the darkness will glow with equal light.

Help us, make us constant and sincere, ever sharing what we have with others, that those of Thy children who hear Thy voice may journey on together, making a company of witnesses to Thee in all lands, and may we go steadily, cheerily, upon our way with faith in our hearts and Thy peace and love to sustain and support us.

May Thy Holy Spirit ever direct and guide us on our way.

We ask it, dear Father, in Christ's name.

AMEN.

ATHER of Life and Love and all Beauty and Goodness, fill my heart with the radiance that can come only from Thee. Make me to see and appreciate in others this quality of Thy goodness, so that in turn I may be touched by the Divine Flame of Love. May it flow through me to others, so that they in turn may be blessed by my passing.

For Jesus' sake.

AMEN.

ATHER of all those who through years of apparently fruitless effort have grown discouraged and disheartened; help, we pray Thee, with Thy boundless love, courage and hope which comes only from Thy divine goodness and holiness. Cheer these weary travellers and ease their tired feet and puzzled and drooping spirits with the springs of the Divine Waters of Life. Make the rough places smooth and make their eyes bright to see Thy glory through the fog and haze of doubt. Make them sure of Thy love toward Thy Children of Earth, and may they dwell on that until the clouds break and they behold Thee as Thou art, and Thine shall be the Glory and Praise through all Eternity.

This we beg for Thy Son's sake.

AMEN.

ELP me, dear Saviour, to control myself!
From the temptation of hasty speech; deliver me,
From the feelings of slights and the feelings of revenge; deliver me,
From the feelings of injury to my pride and my intentions; deliver me.
Be my guide and example, and may Thy image come before my eyes and dispel anger, fear, envy and every harmful and evil thing.

Help me, dear Saviour.

AMEN.

HELP me, dear Father, to have my hope stayed upon Thee, that no outward or inward barrier may keep Thy Light from shining upon my path, or from showing me the Great Glory which Thou hast promised to those who have followed Thee through storm and sunshine.

For Jesus' sake.

AMEN.

ASTER, give me the courage to follow Thy lead when I hear Thy voice calling and directing my work. May I never fail to come and to do my work with singleness of heart for Thy dear sake. May the little difficulties I now think so serious melt and disappear in the happiness that comes from being one spirit with Thee and with those who stand ready to be used for Thy plans. Keep me from temptation and impatience and every evil thing, and help me always to seek Thy face.

I ask it in Christ's name.

AMEN.

MAY my heart hold the love of little children, of old age and of frail and wavering ones, fragile in faith and purpose. May my arms be strong to give assistance and shelter, and may my understanding grow day by day until the world is blessed by my work. Help me to foster those ideals and dreams which will materialize into beautiful realities, and may I picture those things of the spirit which will bring this to pass. Rapidly or slowly as my progress may come, let me ever be ready to give of what I have in such great abundance.

AMEN.

ELP me, dear Saviour, to conquer myself. Help me to overcome by love and sympathy the bitterness in my soul. Help me to overlook any little slights or contradictions as a thing too small or too unimportant to consider. Fill all the space these things have occupied in my mind with love and understanding and give me grace not to show by voice, face or manner that I am not a child of God or a follower of Thine.

Help me always.

AMEN.

FATHER, whose all-seeing eye ever watches over the destinies of man, and whose powerful right arm stretches out for his protection and help; shield this servant of Thine from the dangers of a life of power and the temptations which buffet the soul as a ship on a troubled sea. Make this servant of Thine wise and prudent, waiting for the promptings of the inner voice. May Thy love bless all his hours of all his days, and may his gratitude and reverence for Thy voice, as he distinguishes it among the noise of many voices, so guide and direct his course that his life may be steered into quiet waters of peace and hope and refreshment.

We ask it in Jesus' name.

AMEN.

FOR THE COMFORT OF AN UNDERSTANDING MIND

ASTER of all worlds, all religions, of all the forces of the universe and worlds in the great Cycle of Eternity; help with Thy mighty power those who have tried to serve Thee to the best of their lights by giving them renewed strength and faith and the comfort of an understanding mind, full to overflowing with sympathy and love. May the path and the light which shines as a beacon ever be clear and strong, so that slipping feet may right their course and have power to walk the road to safety and to peace.

In the name of Thy Son, Jesus Christ.

AMEN.

HELP and direct my heart, will, and understanding, and consecrate every action that I may follow in the path which leads to Life Everlasting, though the way seems strewn with difficulties and obstructions.

May Thy Light lead me as the star of old, and may the patience of Christ enter into my consciousness and desire, that nothing may daunt, distract, or beguile me into desertion of this divine quest.

Help me always for Christ's sake.

AMEN.

ATHER of Heaven, the Keeper of all good and precious gifts to Thy Children of Earth, open our eyes, our ears, our minds and our hearts to the gentle influences of Thy divine Love and Light, that they may flow, unhindered by worldly desires or distractions, through our beings, cleansing and changing into beauty and hope all that we touch, both the souls of other travellers on the way and the occupations which it is our duty to accomplish.

Make us steadfast, single-hearted, in trying to distinguish among the many obstacles encountered, which are of our own making and which are from Thee, believing always that when we understand our work Thou wilt give us the courage to walk in the path laid out for us.

Help us, keep us always.

AMEN AND AMEN.

EEP me simple and unaffected by praise or censure of my world but keep my eyes ever turned toward Thee for Light and help.

AMEN.

MAY Thy loving care surround these children of Thine who live in the waste places of the Earth; may they have for their hope the assurance that no child of Thine, however obscure, lonely, or forgotten of man, is to Thee an outcast.

Cheer them with an inner understanding of Thy great mysteries and out of the quiet and isolation speak to them of Thy heavenly realities which are revealed to those who seek with understanding and with faith.

We ask it in Christ's name.

AMEN.

FATHER of Divine Love, of Goodness and Beauty, touch our hearts with Thy divine spark and kindle within us loving hearts and understanding minds ready with sympathy and consolation, and make us ever ready to give ourselves to those less fortunate.

May our hearts go out to all suffering either from sin or from sorrow.

Bind us with the cords of affection and love to those dependent upon us for sympathy and direction, and may we never defraud or deceive them. Help us, dear Saviour.

AMEN.

HELP all those, dear Father, who strive for knowledge and divine understanding.

Give them meekness of spirit and a strong desire to experience Thy love and to participate in Thy promises.

In Christ's name.

AMEN.

ELP me, Father, to understand Thy hidden mysteries and give me a humble heart and a contrite spirit, that the beauty of Thy glory may not be hidden from me, but revealed in all its Truth.

AMEN.

HELP us, dear Saviour! The Comforter of those who seek, the steadfast Friend of those who, through sorrow, pain, or for any other cause, come to Thee for help and direction. May we so shape our course in this world of shadow and sunshine that we may be blessed with peace and hope after the storms, of trials and unhappiness. May our lives manifest Thy goodness to us, and our hearts radiate love, hope and trust, so that others may rejoice with us and be led to the source of all comfort. We ask it in the name of all those who need Thy peace and joy to sustain them on Life's journey.

AMEN.

ATHER of all childhood, whether welcome or unwelcome; Master of all the forces of life and death; Director of all forces of Nature and of man, Praise, Honor and Glory are Thine from the beginning of the World to the ends of this and every other world in the Great Cycles of Eternity.

Guide, guard, cherish all the helpless children of Earth and encircle them in Thy love and protection, keeping them from fear and every other evil thing.

Nourish them with the divine Love and may Thy angels be their friends and guides through the lonely and dangerous hours of childhood.

May their faith increase with the days and their eyes be opened to Thy wonders, beauty and goodness and be Thou a friend and councillor.

We beg this for Thy little children of Earth.

AMEN.

ATHER of all desolate and grief-stricken people, be they responsible for their sorrow or be it the result of the mistakes of others; may Thy compassion encompass them, and may the Comforter come with healing, and may their tears cease and their hearts rejoice with the knowledge of Thy love and forgiveness.

Keep them in Thy care and protection until their journey's end.

For Jesus' sake.

AMEN.

MAY our hearts become as a garden where beautiful thoughts may dwell like flowers, washed by the Heavenly Dew of Grace; may peace abide with us that the meeting with Thee, great Father of all, may be recognized by us in the tenderness and softness of Thy approach.

May the heart grow pure and untouched by the world, and the desire for possessions or worldly honor.

Make us of one mind and one hope and carry us through the dark days with our faith untouched by sorrow or despair and make us worthy Children of Thine.

AMEN.

IGHTEN the drab day by the reflection of Thy spiritual glory, that the rays may fall upon us with beautifying power, making the inner consciousness radiant and glowing by the understanding of Thy promises to us, Thy Children of Earth.

Hearten us and give us the assurance that Thou art ever at hand to aid and comfort and bless, and may our hearts be opened to the inflowing of Thy spirit of love and peace.

AMEN.

Princeton Theological Seminary-Speer Library
1 1012 01026 6841